

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claims 2-4 were withdrawn from further consideration as they recite limitations not supported by the disclosures directed to the elected species.

However, all elements recited in claims 2-4 are shown in Fig. 1 of the elected species, that is, the shoulder (10), supporting arm (4), inner wall (17A), groove (17), rotational axis (18A), and a part of the supporting arm (9) are shown in Fig. 1.

Regarding claims 2 and 4, the engaging sections (the shoulders of the supporting arms of the terminals and the inner walls of the grooves of the pressure member) are formed in a plane parallel to the rotational axis, because the terminals are accommodated in the groove of the pressure member and the rotation axis provided in the groove is supported by the bearing sections (11) of the terminals (specification, page 7, lines 7-14, and page 12, lines 4-9). Namely, the terminals are arranged in the direction of the rotation axis so that the shoulders of the terminals engage with the inner walls of the grooves of the pressure member in a plane parallel to the rotational axis.

In claim 3, the engaging section are formed in a plane not parallel but perpendicular to the rotational axis (specification, page 12, lines 4-9).

Accordingly, it is evident that claims 2-4 are disclosed in the elected species (Fig. 1) and it is requested that these claims be considered.

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In paragraphs of 2-3 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashiguchi et al.

In reply thereto, applicant amended claim 1 to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claim, applicant's invention comprises a plurality of terminals (2) arranged in the housing (1), the pressure member (15) rotatable about the rotational axis (18A), and a plurality of engaging sections (10 and 17A) provided on the terminals and said pressure member and holding the pressure member at the open position by an engaging force generated by concerted movement of the terminals and the pressure member. Since the engagement between the engaging sections may be provided anywhere at desired intervals in the area where the terminals are present, the pressure member is firmly held at the open position.

With respect to the prior art, Higashiguchi et al. discloses a cable connector, comprising contacts (13) fixed in an insulator (12), a handle (14) rotatable at a pivot portion (16). The handle is provided with protruding portions (22) at both ends thereof and the insulator is provided with protrusion-receiving portions (23) at positions corresponding to the respective protruding portions to engage with the protruding portions (column 3, line 55 to column 4, line 1).

However, Higashiguchi does not disclose or suggest any engaging section provided on the terminal and the pressure member and holding the pressure member at the

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open position by an engaging force generated by concerted movement of the terminals and the pressure member.

Higashiguchi's protrusion-receiving portions are not provided in the contacts but in the insulator, while applicant's engaging sections are provided in the terminals.

Also, Higashiguchi's protruding portions are provided only at both ends of the handle. Consequently, Higashiguchi's handle is engaged with the insulator at only the two positions so that the handle is held less firmly than applicant's pressure member. Applicant's engagement between the engagement sections may be provided any positions where the terminals are present.

For these reasons it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in claim 1 as amended is patentable over Higashiguchi et al.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, claim 1 was objected to because of the informalities.

In reply thereto, applicant has deleted "or said housing" from claim 1 to correct the informalities.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon does not appear to be any more pertinent with respect to the amended claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-4 allowed and this case passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CAHNGES MADE

1. (Amended) An electrical connector for a flat cable, comprising:

a housing having an open mouth;

a plurality of terminals which are arranged and maintained [at] in said housing and have contact sections at positions facing [to] said open mouth of said housing;

a pressure member [which can freely rotate around] rotatable about a rotational axis and between an open position where said flat cable is inserted from said open mouth into an insertion space and arranged on said contact sections and a closed position where said flat cable is pressed towards said contact sections, said rotational axis [positioned] being opposed to said contact sections with respect to said flat cable;

[at least one] a plurality of bearing [section] sections provided [in] on said [terminal] terminals to support said rotational axis for rotation of said pressure member at said rotational axis; and

[at least one] ^{17A,10} a plurality of engaging [section] sections provided [in] on said terminals [terminal or said housing] and said pressure member [and] for holding said pressure member at said open position by an engaging force generated by concerted movement of said terminals [or said housing] and said pressure member.